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ABSTRACT

This document reports on a day care program for children of working mothers, the 4-C program. This program is a federally sponsored effort conducted through community cooperation. Its goals include: (1) more and better child care, (2) mobilization of community resources and coordination of existing and new child care programs, (3) ensuring the parents of children in child care programs an effective voice in policy and program direction, and (4) simplification of administrative relationship between local programs and State and Federal governments. Other aspects of this program include: (1) new sources of funding, (2) local committees one-third of whose membership is parents, and (3) availability of resource people, technical assistance and information on State and joint Federal/State day care programs to communities. (CK)

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COMMUNITY COORDINATED CHILD CARE

CONCEPT, GOALS, OPERATION

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what is 4-C?

The need for more and better child care services has become a national priority. To address this critical problem, the Federal Government developed the 4-C (Community Coordinated Child Care) Program, through which it encourages communities to take a comprehensive, coordinated approach to day care and pre-school services. Interested local agencies and organizations (both public and private) and individuals are helped to work together to survey needs, coordinate efforts, stretch resources, and reduce duplication and waste. Federally sponsored and administered on a regional basis, 4-C provides for planning and coordinative efforts on the local and State level.

Starting with 24 pilot 4-C projects, which received limited Federal funding and technical assistance, the concept met with such enthusiasm that there are now more than a hundred and fifty 4-C programs in operation and getting organized throughout the country.

what are the goals of the 4-C program?

Around the nation, citizens are working hand-in-hand with Federal, regional, State and local officials

through 4-C to achieve some of the following goals:

- More and better child care, child development services, and supportive family services for a maximum number of families.
- Mobilization of community resources and coordination of existing and new child care programs.
- Ensuring the parents of children in child care programs an effective voice in policy and program direction.
- Simplification of administrative relationship between local programs and State and Federal governments.

why should a community participate in 4-C?

Some specific benefits realized in communities that have organized 4-C committees under the pilot program are:

- Communities have mobilized their resources on behalf of children—Representatives of public and private agencies and organizations, and profit and non-profit day-care services have joined with parents and other concerned citizens through 4-C to survey community needs, and maximize existing resources. They have sought and found ways to expand and improve services for young children.
- New sources of funding for child care and development have been found to finance programs for children, coordinative efforts and staff training.

- Administrative relationships between local programs and State and Federal governments have been smoothed and simplified.
- Opportunities for career development in child care work have been improved; many communities have obtained grants to train early childhood personnel, and staff placement services have benefited both day care staff members and their agencies.
- Sharing of transportation, purchasing, facilities and other activities and services have helped a number of child care centers.
- Communities are now better prepared to participate in present and future government programs relating to children.
- Through interagency cooperation, continuity of child care and flexibility of services is improved.
- An informed and involved child care community is formed because the 4-C committee acts as a clearinghouse for information on early childhood matters.

do parents really have a voice in 4-C programs?

Parents *must* make up one-third of the membership of a local 4-C committee, according to 4-C guidelines. In every 4-C community, parents are taking part in planning child care services and are learning to contribute their ideas and experiences and to hold their own with agency staff members, community leaders, and government officials.

how did 4-C get started?

The 4-C concept grew out of a concern by Members of Congress and Federal officials over a proliferation of day care programs and funding sources without adequate mechanisms for comprehensive planning and coordination. After a mandate for coordination was provided by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1967 (Section 522-d), the interagency Federal Panel on Early Childhood was formed in 1968. The concept and guidelines for a Community Coordinated Child Care (4-C) program were developed by members of the Panel, which set up a permanent Standing Committee on 4-C.

In 1969, the Office of Child Development (OCD) was established within HEW and given overall responsibility for the 4-C program. On the national level, eight Federal agencies concerned with children's program participate in 4-C through their representatives on the Federal Panel: Office of Economic Opportunity; Bureau of the Budget; and the Departments of Health, Education, and Welfare; Labor; Housing and Urban Development; Agriculture; Defense; and the Interior (Bureau of Indian Affairs).

who serves on a local 4-C committee?

Local 4-C committees are made up of persons interested in day care and

child development, either as representatives of organizations or as individuals. Members usually include:

Representatives of:
- Public agencies, such as Head Start, welfare department, Model Cities
- Private non-profit agencies
- Voluntary organizations
- Business and industry
- Proprietary child care centers

Parents of children in child care programs

Interested citizens and community leaders

Early childhood educators

how is a local 4-C program funded?

Because the purpose of 4-C is to coordinate existing and potential child care efforts with an emphasis on local initiative, no new Federal funds are provided for child care services under this program. (However, limited grants have been made to most of the designated 4-C pilot projects to cover some administrative costs.) Instead, communities are encouraged to seek funds from a variety of sources to administer the 4-C effort and to continue and expand local day care services. 4-C programs have obtained money from such sources as:

United Fund and other local funding services

Private funds, including foundations

Specific Federal funding sources:
- Head Start or CAA "local initiative" money
- Title IV-A Social Security Act funds

State program funds

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Funds obtained locally sometimes can be matched by existing Federal money; for example, through Title IV-A of the Social Security Act, 4-C projects can apply for imbursement of 75 percent of expenditures.

what does a state 4-C committee do?

To facilitate coordination of day care at the State level, each State is encouraged to form a State 4-C Committee. Among its functions are to:

- Encourage and support local 4-C programs
- Coordinate existing State efforts and mobilize State resources in the area of child care services
- Perform the role of advocate for expanded day care services
- Make recommendations to FRC's for recognition of local 4-C programs
- Provide resource people, technical assistance, and information on State and joint Federal/State day care programs to communities.

how does 4-C function on the regional level?

With respect to funding and granting of formal recognition to 4-C programs, authority is given the Federal Regional Committees. The FRC's work

directly with communities that have formed or wish to form a 4-C committee. Where there is a State 4-C program, it serves as an intermediate level between regional and local 4-C efforts. Because child care needs and resources vary from one community to the next, however, 4-C emphasizes voluntary *local* efforts, with support and encouragement provided by Federal, regional and State officials. Regional representatives of the following Federal agencies are included on most FRC's:

Office of Economic Opportunity

Department of Health, Education, and Welfare

Social and Rehabilitation Service

Office of Child Development

Office of Education

Public Health Service

Health Services and Mental Health Administration

Department of Labor

Women's Bureau

Manpower Administration

Department of Housing and Urban Development, usually the Regional Model Cities Coordinator

Department of Agriculture

Usually, the chief administrator of the regional OCD office serves as chairman of the FRC. Members of the FRC act as resource persons to 4-C communities, in addition to representing their own agencies and helping administer the 4-C program. Federal Regional Committees inform and advise local 4-C committees on the availability of funds and changes in Federal program.

what's ahead for 4-C?

Of special significance for the future, the 4-C program offers an innovative and efficient mechanism for community coordination. Much of the major legislation pending before Congress that relates to child care and pre-school education calls for comprehensive, coordinative efforts as a requisite for Federal funding. The 4-C program is laying the groundwork for a rational expansion and improvement in services to the nation's children.

where can I get information about the 4-C program?

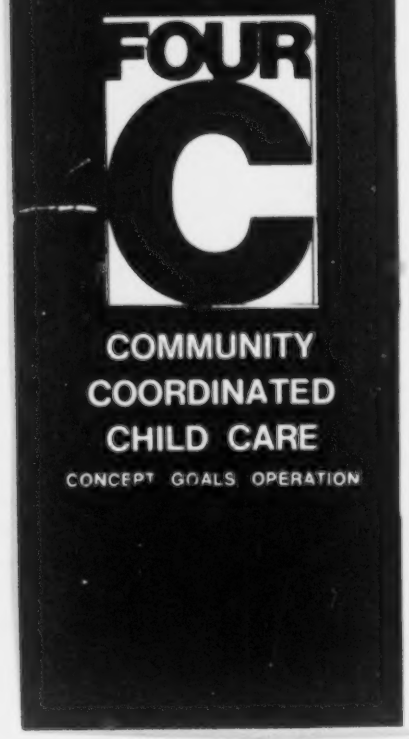
For further information, contact the Office of Child Development, Box 1182, Washington, D. C. 20013, or the Office of Child Development at the nearest Federal Regional Office. (There are ten regional offices, located in: Boston; New York City; Philadelphia; Atlanta; Chicago; Kansas City, Missouri; Dallas; Denver; San Francisco; and Seattle.) The Day Care and Child Development Council of America, Inc. (DCCDCA) has produced booklets and other literature about the 4-C program under an OCD grant. Of special interest to communities just starting to organize are the following:

DAY CARE: EVERYBODY'S PROBLEM (OCD/HEW)

INTERIM POLICY GUIDE FOR THE 4-C PROGRAM (OCD/HEW)

4-C PUBLICATIONS LIST (DCCDCA)

GPO 914-431



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10